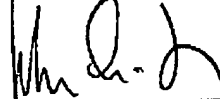


REMARKS

The examiner has made a requirement that is expressed in terms of a requirement for election of species but since the "species" are defined by reference to groups of claims rather than embodiments disclosed in the specification, applicant believes that the requirement is in fact a requirement for restriction. In response to the requirement for restriction, applicant elects Group I, claims 1-16.

Applicant has added a new claim 37 directed to the feature that the relative motion recited in step (c) and the cleaving recited in step (g) of claim 1 are effected under control of an electrical signal. In the described embodiment of the invention, the electrical signal that controls the relative motion referred to in step (c) is the signal that is produced by the strain gauges attached to the beam 78, and the electrical signal that controls cleaving of the fiber is the strain gauge signal as described in paragraph [0051]. Applicant therefore submits that claim 37 links claims 1-16 with claims 18-25 and 32 and that therefore these claims should be examined with claims 1-16.

Respectfully submitted,



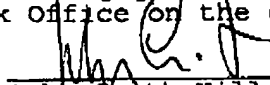
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